

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION
3:12-CR-00215-RJC

USA

v.

SEAN F. MESCALL

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ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Court upon motion of the defendant for compassionate release based on the COVID-19 pandemic under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. (Doc. No. 82).


In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the President signed CARES Act into law on March 27, 2020. Pub. L. 116-136, 134 Stat 281, 516. Section 12003(b)(2) of the Act gives the Director of the BOP authority to lengthen the maximum amount of time a prisoner may be placed in home confinement under 18 U.S.C. § 3624(c)(2) during the covered emergency period, if the Attorney General finds that emergency conditions will materially affect the functioning of the BOP. On April 3, 2020, the Attorney General issued a memorandum to the Director of the BOP making that finding and directing the immediate processing of suitable candidates for home confinement. However, nothing in the CARES Act gives the Court a role in determining those candidates. See United States v. Caudle, 740 F. App'x 364, 365 (4th Cir. 2018) (district court lacks authority to govern designation of prisoners under § 3624(c)(2)).

Section 603(b) of the First Step Act amended § 3582(c)(1)(A), which previously only allowed a court to reduce a term of imprisonment on motion of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Now a court may entertain a motion filed by a defendant: (1) after full exhaustion of all administrative rights to appeal a failure of the BOP to bring a motion on the inmate's behalf; or (2) after the lapse of 30 days from the receipt of such a request by the warden of the facility, whichever is earlier. Here, the defendant asserts he has exhausted the ways to obtain relief, but the documents attached to his motion show he requested home confinement under § 3624(c)(2), not a sentence reduction under § 3582(c)(1)(A). (Doc. No. 82: Motion at 2-4). Since he has not first sought compassionate release through the warden at his facility, the Court is without authority to consider the merits of his claim. United States v. Raia, 954 F.3d 594, 595 (3d Cir. 2020).

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the defendant's motion for compassionate release, (Doc. No. 82), is **DENIED** without prejudice.

The Clerk is directed to certify copies of this Order to the defendant, the Federal Defender, the United States Attorney, the United States Marshals Service, and the United States Probation Office.

Signed: June 16, 2020


Robert J. Conrad, Jr.
United States District Judge

